

Amendments to the Claims:

A clean version of the entire set of pending claims (including amendments to the claims, if any) is submitted herewith per 37 CFR 1.121(c)(3). This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A pump system ~~(10)~~ for a personal care appliance, comprising:

a fluid cartridge member ~~(42)~~ made of flexible material, the fluid cartridge member having a fluid-filled portion ~~(14)~~ and an exit opening ~~(17)~~ for the fluid in the cartridge, for delivery to a line which connects to a workpiece portion of the appliance;

a base member ~~(24)~~ having a cutout portion ~~(26)~~ into which the fluid-filled portion of the cartridge member can nest; and

a pressing member ~~(32)~~, at least a nesting portion ~~(36)~~ of which has a configuration length and diameter which substantially matches match the cross-section of the cutout portion of the base member, such that, over at least a substantial portion of the length of the cutout portion, the fluid-filled portion and the pressing member substantially nest with the cutout portion, so that as the pressing member is moved in operation forwardly over the cartridge, fluid is moved from the fluid-filled portion through the exit opening, with the flexible cartridge being flattened during such action substantially without creasing of the cartridge.

2. (Currently Amended) A ~~The~~ system of claim 1, wherein the pressing member is moved by user action.

3. (Currently Amended) A ~~The~~ system of claim 1, wherein the pressing member includes two mounting elements ~~(42, 44)~~ which extend outwardly from opposing ends of the nesting portion.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The system of claim 3, wherein the nesting portion is configured to nest with the cutout portion around its entire circumference, permitting the nesting portion to roll along the fluid-filled portion of the cartridge, pressing fluid out therefrom through the exit opening.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~A system of claim 1~~
A pump system for a personal care appliance, comprising:
a fluid cartridge member made of flexible material, the fluid cartridge member having a fluid-filled portion and an exit opening for the fluid in the cartridge, for delivery to a line which connects to a workpiece portion of the appliance;
a base member having a cutout portion into which the fluid-filled portion of the cartridge member can nest; and
a pressing member, at least a nesting portion of which has a configuration which substantially matches the cross-section of the cutout portion of the base member, such that, over at least a substantial portion of the length of the cutout portion, the fluid-filled portion and the pressing member substantially nest with the cutout portion, so that as the pressing member is moved in operation forwardly over the cartridge, fluid is moved from the fluid-filled portion through the exit opening, with the flexible cartridge being flattened during such action substantially without creasing of the cartridge,

wherein the fluid cartridge includes a reservoir portion (20) from which fluid moves to replenish fluid in the fluid-filled portion after a dispensing action.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The system of claim 5, wherein the fluid-filled portion comprises a material which inflates after being compressed by the pressing member, such that fluid from the reservoir moves into the empty part of the fluid-filled portion by vacuum action.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~A-The~~ system of claim 5, including means ~~{50}~~ for pressurizing the reservoir so that fluid is moved into the emptied part of the fluid-filled portion behind the pressing member as the pressing member moves along its path.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~A-The~~ system of claim 1, wherein a beginning part of the cutout portion is narrower than the length of the nesting portion of the pressing means but tapers outwardly to a point where the nesting portion fully nests within the cutout portion.

9. (Currently Amended) ~~A-The~~ system of claim 1, wherein an end part ~~{64}~~ of the cutout portion tapers inwardly such that as the pressing member moves along its path, it is lifted upwardly from the base member and out of nesting contact with the cutout portion.

10. (Currently Amended) ~~A-The~~ system of claim 9, including a support arm member ~~{70}~~ which is arranged and operative to support the pressing member for a return of the pressing member to a start point of its pressing action.

11. (Currently Amended) ~~A-The~~ system of claim 10, wherein return of the pressing member is by spring action.

12. (Currently Amended) A power toothbrush, comprising:

a handle portion ~~{2}~~ having a driving system and a power supply for the driver assembly;

a driven member assembly having an arm on which a brushhead ~~{25}~~ is mounted and a structural element for connecting the driven assembly to the handle element;

a pump system ~~{40}~~ for dispensing fluid to the brushhead ~~{25}~~, the pump assembly including a fluid cartridge member ~~{42}~~ made of flexible material, the fluid cartridge member having a fluid-filled portion ~~{14}~~ and an exit opening ~~{17}~~ for the

fluid in the cartridge, for delivery to a line (32) which connects the pump to the brushhead;

a base member (24) having a cutout portion (26) into which the fluid-filled portion of the cartridge member can nest; and

a pressing member (32), at least a nesting portion of which has a configuration length and a diameter which substantially matches-match the cross-section of the cutout portion of the base member, such that, over at least a substantial portion of the length of the cutout portion, the fluid-filled portion and the pressing member substantially nest with the cutout portion, so that as the pressing member is moved in operation over the cartridge, fluid is moved from the fluid-filled portion through the exit opening into the connecting line, with the flexible cartridge being flattened during such action substantially without creasing thereof.

13. (Currently Amended) ~~A system-The toothbrush~~ of claim 12, wherein the pressing member includes two mounting elements ~~(42, 44)~~ which extend outwardly from opposing ends of the nesting portion.

14. (Currently Amended) ~~A system-The toothbrush~~ of claim 12, wherein the nesting portion is configured to nest with the cutout portion around its entire circumference, permitting the nesting portion to roll along the fluid-filled portion of the cartridge, pressing fluid out therefrom through the exit opening.

15. (Currently Amended) ~~A system-The toothbrush~~ of claim 12, including means ~~(50)~~ for pressurizing the reservoir so that fluid is moved into the emptied part of the fluid-filled portion behind the pressing member as the pressing member moves along its path.

16. (New) The system of claim 5, wherein a beginning part of the cutout portion is narrower than the length of the nesting portion of the pressing means but

tapers outwardly to a point where the nesting portion fully nests within the cutout portion.

17. (New) The system of claim 5, wherein an end part of the cutout portion tapers inwardly such that as the pressing member moves along its path, it is lifted upwardly from the base member and out of nesting contact with the cutout portion.

18. (New) The toothbrush of claim 12, wherein the fluid cartridge includes a reservoir portion from which fluid moves to replenish fluid in the fluid-filled portion after a dispensing action.

19. (New) The toothbrush of claim 12, wherein a beginning part of the cutout portion is narrower than the length of the nesting portion of the pressing means but tapers outwardly to a point where the nesting portion fully nests within the cutout portion.

20. (New) The toothbrush of claim 12, wherein an end part of the cutout portion tapers inwardly such that as the pressing member moves along its path, it is lifted upwardly from the base member and out of nesting contact with the cutout portion.

REMARKS/DISCUSSION OF ISSUES

By this Amendment, Applicants amend claims 1-15 and add new claims 16-20. Claim 5 is amended to rewrite in independent form, including all features of its base claim 1. Claims 2-4, 6-11, and 13-15 are amended for non-statutory reasons, to replace European-style claim phraseology with American-style claim language.

Accordingly, claims 1-20 are pending in the application.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to state whether the drawings are acceptable.

Applicants acknowledge the indication that claims 5-7, 9-11 and 15 define patentable subject matter and would be allowed if rewritten in independent form, including all features of their respective base claims, and any intervening claims.

Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested in view of the following Remarks.

35 U.S.C. § 102

The Office Action rejects claims 1-4, 8 and 12-14 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 over Ramirez U.S. Patent 6,325,076 ("Ramirez").

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-4, 8 and 12-14 are all patentable over Ramirez for at least the following reasons.

Claim 1

Among other things, in the system of claim 1, the length and diameter of the nesting portion substantially match the cross-section of the cutout portion of the base member.

In contrast, as seen in FIGs. 9 and 9A of Ramirez, the length of the wheel 37 does not substantially match the cross-section of opening 39 in body 20. As a result, as shown in FIGs. 9 and 9A of Ramirez, tooth paste sack 21 folds up along the sides of wheel 37 in the space between the wheel 37 and the body 20. This could, for example, lead to weaknesses in the tooth paste sack 21 material, eventually causing a break or leak in the in the wall of tooth paste sack 21, leading to its failure (see, e.g. page 1, line 37 – page 2, line 13 of Applicants' specification).

So, Applicants respectfully submit that Ramirez does not disclose a system where the length and diameter of the nesting portion substantially match the cross-section of the cutout portion of the base member.

Accordingly, for at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is patentable over Ramirez.

Claims 2-4 and 8

Claims 2-4 and 8 depend from claim 1 and are deemed patentable over claim 1 for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 1, and for the following additional reasons.

Claim 8

In the system of claim 8, a beginning part of the cutout portion is narrower than the length of the nesting portion of the pressing means but tapers outwardly to a point where the nesting portion fully nests within the cutout portion.

An exemplary and non-limiting embodiment showing this feature is shown in FIG. 2 of the present specification.

Applicants respectfully submit that Ramirez does not disclose this feature.

The Office Action fails to cite anything in Ramirez that even supposedly discloses this feature.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner either cite something in Ramirez that supposedly shows this feature, or else allow Applicants' claim.

Claim 12

Among other things, in the toothbrush of claim 12, the length and diameter of the nesting portion substantially match the cross-section of the cutout portion of the base member. As explained above with respect to claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that Ramirez does not disclose such a feature.

Accordingly, for at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 12 is patentable over Ramirez.

Claims 13-14

Claims 13-14 depend from claim 12 and are deemed patentable over claim 12 for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 12.